

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 10, with the following paragraph:

--In operation, an ATM-based RAN signaling message sent by RNC 102 is received by HSL module 502 of RAN gateway [[302]] 304. In one embodiment, HSL module 502 may remove the lower level ATM protocol component of the message, and internally route the message to rDCM communication module 410. HSL module 502 internally routes SS7 messages by examining the destination point code (DPC) in the message and converting the DPC into an internal card address.--